

hearing. If a hearing is held, the issue to be considered at such hearing shall be whether this Confirmatory Order should be sustained.

In the absence of any request for hearing, or written approval of an extension of time in which to request a hearing, the provisions specified in Section IV above shall be final 20 days from the date of this Confirmatory Order without further order or proceedings. If an extension of time for requesting a hearing has been approved, the provisions specified in Section IV shall be final when the extension expires if a hearing request has not been received. AN ANSWER OR A REQUEST FOR HEARING SHALL NOT STAY THE IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS ORDER.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 12th day of December 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
James Lieberman,
Director, Office of Enforcement.
[FR Doc. 96-32950 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of renewal of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS).

SUMMARY: The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards was established by Section 29 of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) in 1954. Its purpose is to provide advice to the Commission with regard to the hazards of proposed or existing reactor facilities, to review each application for a construction permit or operating license for certain facilities specified in the AEA, and such other duties as the Commission may request. The AEA as amended by PL-100-456 also specifies that the Defense Nuclear Safety Board may obtain the advice and recommendations of the ACRS.

Membership on the Committee includes individuals experienced in reactor operations, management; probabilistic risk assessment; analysis of reactor accident phenomena; design of nuclear power plant structures, systems and components; and mechanical, civil, and electrical engineering.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has determined that renewal of the charter for the ACRS until December 23, 1998 is in the public interest in connection with the statutory responsibilities assigned to the ACRS. This action is being taken in accordance

with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Andrew L. Bates, Office of the Secretary,
NRC, Washington, DC 20555; telephone:
(301) 415-1963.

Dated: December 23, 1996.
Andrew L. Bates,
Advisory Committee Management Officer.
[FR Doc. 96-32952 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Federal Use of Standards

AGENCY: Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments on proposed revision of OMB Circular No. A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities."

SUMMARY: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is revising Circular A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities." Public Law 104-113, the National Technology Transfer Act of 1995 (hereinafter known as P.L. 104-113), was passed by Congress to codify existing policies in A-119, to establish additional reporting requirements, and to authorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to coordinate conformity assessment activities of the agencies. P.L. 104-113 was signed into law by the President on March 13, 1996. This proposed revision of Circular A-119 implements the new law and makes certain other modifications.

DATES: Comments are requested on the proposed revisions to Circular A-119 no later than February 25, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct written comments to: Information Policy and Technology Branch, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, NEOB Room 10236, Washington, D.C., 20503. E-mail comments may be sent to: huth_v@a1.eop.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Virginia Huth, Information Policy and Technology Branch, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10236 NEOB, Washington, D.C., 20503. Telephone: 202-395-3785. The text of this proposed revision and of the

current OMB Circular A-119 are available electronically on the OMB Home page in the documents section at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/OMB>. The current version of A-119 is available in paper format by contacting the OMB Publications Office at (202) 395-7332. To request a fax of the current A-119, call (202) 395-9068.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-113, or "the Act") codified the policies of Circular A-119. Section 12(d)(1) states that "Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, all Federal agencies and departments shall use technical standards that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies, using such technical standards as a means to carry out policy objectives or activities determined by the agencies and departments."

To carry out this requirement, Section 12(d)(2) states that agencies and departments "shall consult" with those bodies and "shall * * * participate" with them in developing voluntary consensus standards "when such participation is in the public interest and is compatible with agency and departmental missions, authorities, priorities, and budget resources."

Finally, Section 12(d)(3) states that, where it would be "inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical" to use standards that those bodies develop or adopt, an agency or department may use other standards; however, the head of the agency or department must send to OMB "an explanation of the reasons for using such standards." The law states that, beginning with fiscal year 1997, OMB will transmit to Congress and its Committees an annual report summarizing all explanations received in the preceding year.

This Circular provides instructions, beginning with FY 97, for agencies to report explanations of instances in which agencies used standards which were not developed by voluntary consensus standards bodies. For FY 96, OMB issued a letter on May 17, 1996, to the heads of departments and agencies notifying them of the Act and of the new reporting requirement. For the period March 13, 1996 (date of enactment of the Act) to September 30, 1996, any explanations that agencies have generated should be transmitted to NIST no later than January 31, 1997, for forwarding to OMB.

The Act's legislative history confirms that Section 12(d) was intended to codify the Circular's policies. See 142 Cong. Rec. H1265 (daily ed. February